

FACT SHEET

REISSUANCE OF A GENERAL VPDES PERMIT TO DISCHARGE TO STATE WATERS AND STATE CERTIFICATION UNDER THE STATE WATER CONTROL LAW

The Virginia State Water Control Board has under consideration the reissuance of a VPDES general permit for point source discharges from facilities discharging car wash wastewater to the surface waters of the State of Virginia. This general permit will replace VAG75 which expires October 15, 2007. Owners covered under the expiring general permit, who wish to continue to discharge under a general permit, must register for coverage under the new general permit.

Permit Number: VAG75

Name of Permittee: Any owner of a qualifying car wash facility with point source discharges to the surface waters of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Facility Location: Commonwealth of Virginia

Receiving Waters: Surface waters within the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Virginia, except those specifically named in Board regulations or policies, which prohibit such discharges.

The proposed permit action is tentative. On the basis of preliminary review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the State Water Control Board proposes to reissue the general VPDES permit subject to certain conditions. The Board has determined that this category of discharges is appropriately controlled under a general permit. The category of discharges to be included involves facilities with the same or similar types of operations and the facilities discharge the same or similar types of wastes. The draft general permit requires that all covered facilities meet standardized effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.

Persons may comment in writing or by mail to Department Environment Quality on the proposed permit action until October 20, 2004. Comments should be addressed to the contact person listed below. Comments shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the writer, and shall contain a complete, concise statement of the factual basis for comments. Only those comments received within this period will be considered by the Board.

All pertinent information is on file and may be inspected, and arrangements made for copying by contacting George Cosby at:

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 10009
Richmond, Virginia 23240
(804) 698-4067
gecosby@deq.virginia.gov

A public hearing will be held on this draft permit. Notice of the public hearing will be published in newspapers and in the Virginia Register. Following the public hearing comment period, the Board will make determinations regarding the proposed permit action.

Activities Covered By This General Permit:

These general permits will cover point source discharges of car wash wastewater to surface waters of the Commonwealth of Virginia by direct point sources. The type of systems to be covered shall include wastewater generated from the manual, automatic, or self-service washing of vehicles including cars, vans, and trucks designated by SIC 7542. Also, it includes auto dealer preparation and detailing, and fleet vehicle washing. This permit does not cover facilities that wash or steam clean engines, buses, horse/cattle trailers, tankers or tractor-trailers. Also, it does not include mobile car washes or charity carwashes.

There are four main types of these car washes: manual, tunnel, rollover, and wand. A manual type facility consists of manual washing, rinsing and/or waxing the vehicle by personnel. In a tunnel type facility the vehicle

FACT SHEET

General Permit for Car Wash Facilities (VAG75)

Page 2

is driven or pulled by a conveyor through the length of a building where separate washing, rinsing, and waxing operations are performed. In a rollover type facility the vehicle remains stationary while the equipment passes over the vehicle using high pressure water streams and/or brushes to clean and wax it. The wand type facility uses high-pressure streams of water to clean the vehicle.

Proposed Limitations and Monitoring Requirements:

Effluent limitations for car wash facilities are as follows:

| <u>Parameter</u> | <u>Limitation</u> | <u>Monitoring</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Flow | Monitoring | Estimate |
| pH | 9.0 max., 6.0 min.* | Grab |
| Total Suspended Solids | 60 mg/l max. | 5G/8HC** |
| Oil and Grease | 15 mg/l max. | Grab |

- * Where the Water Quality Standards (9 VAC 25-260-00 et seq.) establish alternate standards for pH, those standards shall be the maximum and minimum effluent limitations.
- ** Eight Hour Composite - Consisting of five grab samples collected at hourly intervals until the discharge ceases, or until a minimum of five grab samples have been collected.

Two monitoring scenarios are proposed. Smaller facilities with average flow rates of less than or equal to 5,000 gallons per day are required to monitor once per year. All other facilities are required to monitor once per six months.

The permittee shall maintain records of cleaning and maintenance of all treatment units. These records shall be made available to DEQ personnel upon request.

Basis For Proposed Effluent Limitations And Monitoring Requirements

The Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed this category of discharger and concluded, in their Guidance Document for Effluent Discharges From the Auto and Other Laundries Point Source Category, dated February 1982, that the amounts and toxicity of pollutants in the discharges from these facilities did not justify national regulations.

In developing the proposed effluent limitations and special conditions the following information was reviewed. The permitting strategies, effluent limitations, treatment technologies and special conditions that are being employed by the Department of Environmental Quality and the surrounding states for individual and general VPDES permits issued to car wash facilities and the Environmental Protection Agency's Guidance Document for Effluent Discharges from the Auto and Other Laundries Point Source Category.

Determined by the nature of the business, the parameters to be limited in this general VPDES permit are pH, total suspended solids, and oil/grease. The pH limitation is based upon Virginia's stream water quality standards (9 VAC 25-260-50 et seq. and 9 VAC 25-260-380 et seq.). The total suspended solids and oil/grease parameters are based on best engineering judgment for the type of treatment employed by these systems. Complying with these parameters is an indication that the treatment system is being operated and maintained properly and is producing an acceptable quality effluent.

The basis for the reduced frequency of analysis for small dischargers with average flow rates of less than or equal to 5,000 gallons per day is that their potential to affect water quality is minimal based on the small quantity of discharge. These are generally facilities that are located in rural areas and are not served by central sewerage facilities.

The treatment systems commonly utilized at these facilities consist of sediment traps in the bays followed by a larger sedimentation basin baffled to contain any floating material and/or sand filtration. These treatment systems produce an acceptable quality effluent and operate well when maintained properly. The permit requires the owner to inspect the treatment system and the quality of the effluent at least weekly and to maintain a log of the treatment maintenance.

FACT SHEET

General Permit for Car Wash Facilities (VAG75)

Page 3

Proposed Special Conditions

1. The permit requires inspections of the effluent and maintenance of the wastewater treatment facilities at least once per week and documentation of the maintenance on an Operational Log.

9 VAC 25-31-10 et seq., and 40 CFR 122.41(e) require proper operation and maintenance of the permitted facility.

2. No sewage shall be discharged to surface waters from this facility under this permit.

The effluent limitations do not address pollutants typical of treated sewage, no sewage discharge to surface waters are permitted under the general permit.

3. The permit prohibits adding chemicals to the water or waste which may be discharged other than those listed on the owner's accepted registration statement, unless prior approval of the chemical(s) is granted by the Department of Environmental Quality

This special condition assures protection of water quality and beneficial uses of the waters receiving the discharge.

4. The permit encourages reuse or recycle of wastewater whenever feasible.

This language is included in keeping with DEQ's pollution prevention philosophy.

5. The permit establishes a solids management plan that includes:

- a. A prohibition on the discharge of floating solids or visible foam in other than trace amounts,
- b. A requirement to clean settling basins frequently in order to achieve effective treatment.
- c. A requirement that all solids shall be handled stored and disposed of so as to prevent a discharge to state waters.

This management plan will prohibit the discharge of solids into State waters unless authorized by permit and require the use of best management practices where applicable to control or abate the discharge of pollutants.

6. Prohibition on washing of vessels that contain residue of toxic chemicals (fertilizers, organic or inorganic chemicals, etc.). If the facility is a self-service operation, the permittee is required to post a sign to this effect.

This prohibition will reduce the risk of toxics pollution and eliminate the need for a Toxic Management Program 9 VAC 25-31-10 et seq.

7. If the discharge is into a municipal separate storm sewer the permittee is required to notify the owner of the municipal separate storm sewer system of the existence of the discharge within 30 days of coverage under the general permit and provide the following information: the name of the facility; a contact person and phone number; and the location of the discharge.

8. The permittee shall notify the Department as soon as they know or have reason to believe:

- a. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in the discharge, on a routine or frequent basis, of any toxic pollutant which is not limited in this permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following notification levels:

(1) One hundred micrograms per liter;

(2) Two hundred micrograms per liter for acrolein and acrylonitrile; five hundred micrograms per liter for 2, 4-dinitrophenol and for 2-methyl-4, 6-dinitrophenol; and one milligram per liter for antimony;

(3) Five times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application; or

FACT SHEET

General Permit for Car Wash Facilities (VAG75)

Page 4

- (4) The level established by the Board.
- b. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in any discharge, on a nonroutine or infrequent basis, of a toxic pollutant which is not limited in this permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following notification levels:
 - (1) Five hundred micrograms per liter;
 - (2) One milligram per liter for antimony;
 - (3) Ten times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application; or
 - (4) The level established by the Board.

9 VAC 25-31-200 A et seq. is required for all manufacturing commercial, mining, and silvicultural dischargers.

Administrative

The general permit will have a fixed term of five years. Every authorization under this general permit will expire at the same time and all authorizations will be renewed on the same date, provided a complete registration statement has been filed prior to the general permit's expiration date.

All owners/operators desiring to be covered by this general permit must register with the Department by filing a registration statement and payment of applicable fees. The registration statement shall be submitted and a notification of coverage issued prior to any discharges or other activities for which this permit is required. Car wash facilities that are discharging to surface waters on the effective date of this general permit, and which have not been issued an individual VPDES permit, may submit the registration statement.

Existing operations with individual VPDES permits that wish to seek coverage under the proposed general permit would have to file a registration statement at least 180 days prior to the expiration date of the individual VPDES permit. For all new dischargers that will begin activities after the effective date of this permit, the registration statement shall be filed at least 30 days prior to the commencement of operation of the car wash.

This general permit does not cover activities or discharges covered by an individual VPDES permit until the individual permit has expired or has been revoked. Any person conducting an activity covered by an individual permit, which could be covered by this general permit, may request that the individual permit be revoked and register for coverage under this general permit. Any owner or operator not wishing to be covered or limited by this general permit may make application for an individual VPDES permit, in accordance with VPDES procedures, stating the reasons supporting the request.

This general permit does not apply to any new or increased discharge that will result in significant effects to the receiving waters. That determination is made in accordance with the State Water Control Board's Antidegradation Policy contained in the Virginia Water Quality Standards, 9VAC 25-260-30 et seq.

This general permit will maintain the Water Quality Standards adopted by the Board.

All facilities that the Department believes are eligible for coverage under this general permit will be authorized to discharge under the terms and conditions of the permit after a complete registration statement is submitted, the applicable permit fee is paid, and the Department sends a copy of the general permit to the applicant. If this general permit is inappropriate, the applicant will be so notified.

Car wash facilities with point source discharges that do not qualify for coverage under this general permit may make application for an individual VPDES permit.